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REPORT OF SATIN MOTH SURVEY
OF OREGON

June 1935.

The satin moth (Stilpnotia salicis Linn.) was first discovered in Oregon in August 1934. Mr. J. A. Beal of the Portland Forest Insect Laboratory found two white poplars on the Pacific Highway near Gervais, Marion County, heavily defoliated by the caterpillars of this moth. About the same time, two adults were caught flying in the city of Portland. These observations indicated that the satin moth was probably well established in Oregon, especially since the owner of the trees near Gervais had noted defoliation of his trees by these caterpillars during three previous seasons.

In September and October, Mr. J. S. Wieman, State Inspector, Mr. J. F. Bock, Horticultural Inspector of Clackamas County and Mr. Beal did some additional scouting of the territory around Gervais. Two more infestations were found - one at a distance of about a quarter of a mile north, and another about two miles west of the first locality. Inspections made to the south and east of Salem failed to bring to light any other infestations, but the fall period was found to be a very unsatisfactory time to scout for this insect as defoliations by other insects could be easily confused with it, and the egg masses and small hibernaculae were hard to find. As a result, additional scouting was postponed until the 1935 summer season.

During the last half of June 1935, Mr. J. P. Young of the Federal Plant Quarantine Office at Seattle was detailed to work with State officials in making a check of the distribution of the satin moth in Oregon. Through arrangements with Mr. Frank McKennon, Chief of the State Division of Plant Industry, Mr. J. F. Bock, Horticultural Inspector of Clackamas County and Mr. Chas. A. Cole of the Salem office worked with Mr. Young and furnished the automobile transportation. The scouting covered all of the counties within or bordering the Willamette Valley; the Umpqua drainage and Rogue River drainages in southern Oregon; and the Columbia River basin from The Dalles to Astoria. Satin moth infestations were found in the following localities (see attached map) :-

Marion County.

The original infestation was found on two large white poplars (Populus alba L.) in the yard of Mr. Sam Brown on the Pacific Highway near the town of Cervais. Light infestations were also found on native black cottonwoods along a nearby creek. About twelve white poplars on the farm of R. S. Marshall, two miles west of Cervais and a group of white poplars about one-fourth mile north of Mr. Brown's place on the Pacific Highway were found to be quite heavily infested. (Infestations found by J. A. Beal, J.S.Wieman and J.F.Bock.)

Clackamas County

Numerous caterpillars were found on a large white poplar in the yard of Mrs. Emma Swetman at 82nd. and Clackamas Aves. in the town of Clackamas (Record by J. P. Young and J. F. Bock.)

Polk County.

Two satin moth larvae were found after an intensive search on a large white poplar on the place of Mr. J. L. Olivers, located on Wallace Road about four miles northwest of Salem, and about one-fourth mile west of the highway on a side road. (Record by J. F. Young and C. A. Cole.)

Yamhill County.

Caterpillars were found fairly numerous on a number of Carolina and Lombardy poplars halfway between Dayton and McMinnville in the yard of J. J. Kneeland. (Record by J. P. Young and C. A. Cole.)

Linn County.

After a diligent search one caterpillar was found on a very large white poplar at 803 E. First Street in the city of Albany. (Record by J. P. Young and C. A. Cole.)

Benton County.

A large number of Lombardy and Carolina poplars in the city of Corvallis were examined without finding a trace of the satin moth. A number of Lombardy poplars at Philomath were examined without results. But on the Alsea Road about one mile from Philomath three caterpillars were found on a large white poplar at the C. E. Fenner place. (Record by J. P. Young and C. A. Cole.)

Washington County.

A few satin moths were discovered on a white poplar at Beaverton, where the railroad crosses the highway. At Tobias Station numerous satin moth caterpillars were found on a large white poplar. Some of these were pupating when examined on July 2nd. This infestation was noted last year by a local resident. A Carolina poplar close by was not infested as far as could be determined.

Satin moths were also numerous at South Tenth Street in Hillsboro. (Record by J. P. Young and C. A. Cole.)

Multnomah County.

A light infestation of satin moth was found on a white poplar at Lombard and Dwight Streets in the St. Johns district of Portland. Another light infestation on a large white poplar was found at 6129 Lovely Street. (Record by J. F. Young and C. A. Cole..)

Columbia County.

Light infestations, without conspicuous defoliation were found on white poplar and Carolina poplars along the Columbia River Highway at Scappoose, Rainier, Deer Island and Clatskanie. On July 15, the moths were in the pupal stage and a few had emerged and laid eggs. (Record by R. L. Furniss.)

Clatsop County.

On the outskirts of Astoria, webs containing molt skins of the satin moth were found on a white poplar, but no evidence of satin moth was found on other trees in the vicinity. (Record by R. T. Webber.)

Uninfested Areas.

No infestations were found in the Willamette Valley south of Albany, nor in the Umpqua River and Rogue River drainages although these areas along the main highways were carefully scouted by Mr. Young and Mr. Cole as far south as the foot of the Siskiyou Mountains near Ashland. Mr. Young also inspected the Columbia River gorge from Portland to The Dalles without finding any evidence of satin moth.

Very few planted poplars occur along the Coast, and the chances of introduction in Coast Counties is so slight that this area was only scouted as far south as Seaside.

No examinations have been made in eastern Oregon counties as yet, but there is little chance of infestation having spread into this section because of the great distance from known sources of infestation. Inspections will be made later in the summer of planted trees around Bend and Klamath Falls in connection with other work.

Host Trees.

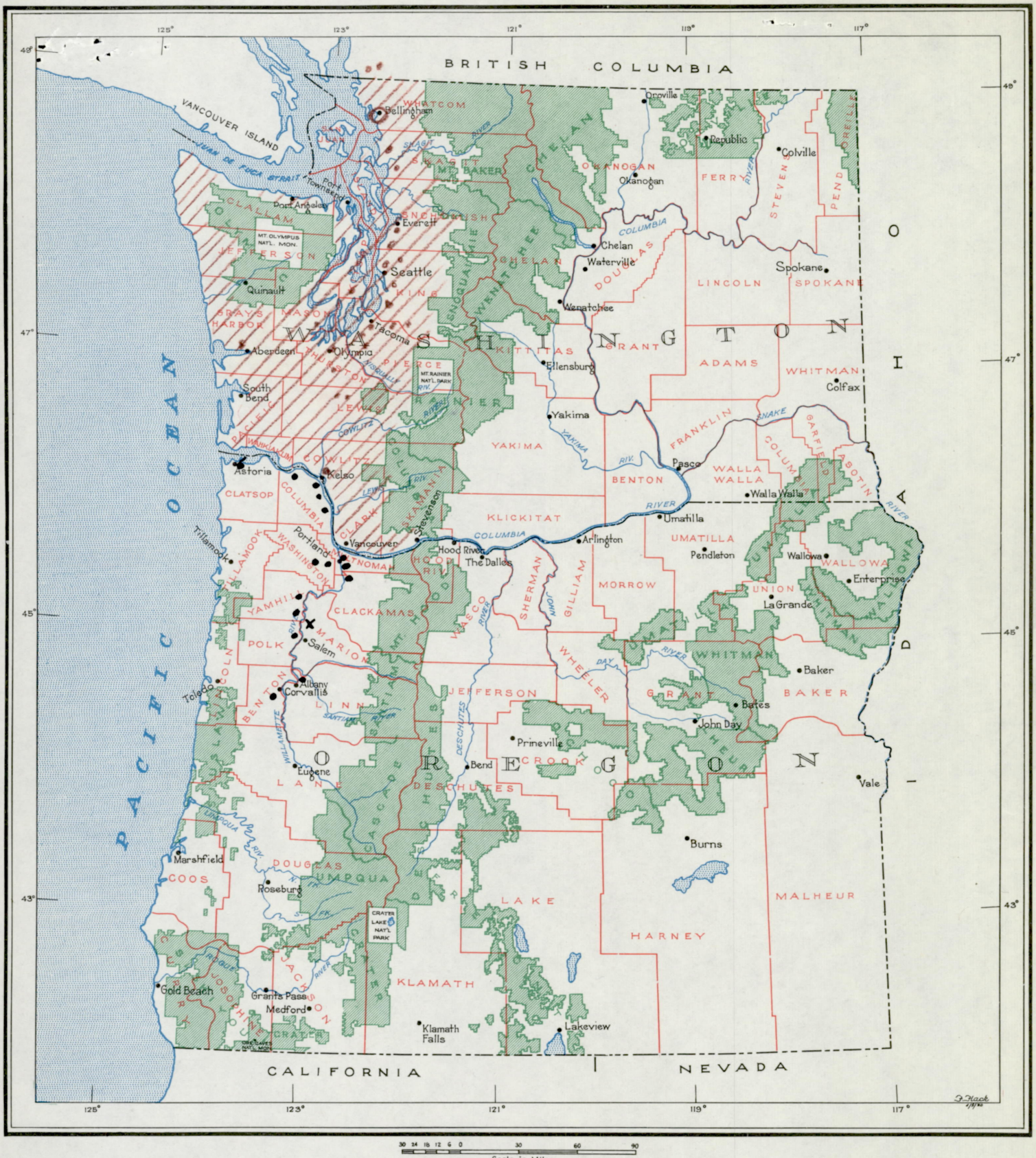
It has been observed during the course of this work that introduced poplars are the preferred hosts of the satin moth in this region. White poplar (Populus alba L.) is first in order of preference and most of the new infestations have been found on this tree. Lombardy and Carolina poplars are next in order of preference. Native poplars and willows are occasionally fed upon in areas where the satin moth is abundant, but it is practically useless to try to find new infestations on any of these native trees.

Parasites.

Mr. Webber has found that certain of the introduced parasites, notably Apanteles solitarius, have become very abundant and widespread in their distribution through western Washington. Some evidence of parasitism has been found in connection with the Oregon scouting work, but the identity of these parasites has not been determined as yet.

F. P. Keen,
Entomologist.
Forest Insect Investigations.

Portland, Oregon.
July 15, 1935.



LEGEND

- State Lines
- National Forests
- County boundaries

PACIFIC NORTHWEST FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

Project SATIN MOTH SURVEY - 1935

- First infestation found in Washington - 1922
- Infested areas of Washington
- First infestation found in Oregon - 1934.
- New infestations found in Oregon - 1935.

Copies sent to:—

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1 – Young
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